

PACKAGING CENTERS

The new packaging center at 23rd and Chestnut Streets in Philadelphia has recently produced more than 13,000 standard food packages a day. On one day in the week which began June 12, the volunteers turned out 14,008 packages. Both the Philadelphia and St. Louis plants have begun evening shifts for the benefit of persons who are not able to volunteer for service during the day.

The St. Louis center had a visit from a group of Polish Wacs who are taking their training at Jefferson Barracks. The Polish girls were most interested in the contents of the packages and amazed at the speed with which they were turned out.

Workers at the New York center have received many letters of praise and thanks from European prisoners of war camps. They have also heard at first hand, from several recent repatriates who have visited the plant, about conditions in German camps, and how the men receive the packages.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt visited the Center on June 21 and complimented the volunteers on the production of more than 4,000,000 food packages in this Center. The visit was arranged by Mrs. T. H. Roulston (Marjorie Hillis, the author), chairman of the packaging service of the Brooklyn Chapter.

Volunteer workers at the packaging centers are now turning out five different types of packages for prisoners of war and civilian internees. These comprise four types of food packages and the medical kit. In addition, the General Supply

Office of the Red Cross at Harbor-side, N. J., is making up the "capture parcel," which is given to newly arrived American prisoners in transit camps as a gift of the American Red Cross.

Stalags Luft III and IV

Following a visit to Stalag Luft III last February, a representative of War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA reported that, on January 10, 1944, a new compound known as Lager Belaria had been opened. The new compound is "situated on a hill outside the little town" (presumably Sagan), and about three miles from the main Luft III camp. The main camp is composed of four compounds, or Lagers, known as North, East, South, and Center. Up to last February, Lager Belaria contained only British flyers mostly transferred from the Center compound. The South and Center compounds are now all-American, and the North and East all-RAF.

For the number of prisoners transferred last January from the Center compound, Lager Belaria was reported to be spacious and comfortable, but, the report added, "the men expect this Section to grow at least to ten times its present size." The opinion expressed by the men was that Lager Belaria was the best of the five at Luft III.

Later advices by cable have stated that Stalag Luft IV, situated near Stalag Luft III, was opened in May and that "several hundred American airmen" have been assigned to the new camp. It therefore seems likely that Lager Belaria has been made part of Luft IV since the visit in February last.

The YMCA had provided ample

Photographs

An increasing number of photographs from American prisoners of war are reaching relatives and friends in the United States. The recipients of pictures showing groups of prisoners, camp scenes, or camp activities of general interest are urged to send the originals to Prisoners of War Bulletin, American Red Cross, Washington 13, D. C. Copies will then be made and the utmost care taken to insure that the originals are promptly returned.

If the individuals shown in pictures can be identified, the recipients are requested to furnish the names to Prisoners of War Bulletin at the time the pictures are submitted. Whenever pictures of unidentified prisoners are published, readers will understand that the names of the persons shown are unknown to the American Red Cross. The Bulletin will publish whatever identifying data is available.

equipment for ice hockey to be played in all the Luft III compounds last winter, but, unfortunately, there had been no ice up to the end of January. Fencing has become a very popular sport at this camp, and also the building of model planes. Long lists of requests for wood, paper, and other materials, for making model planes, had been sent to the YMCA at Geneva. It is customary to divide materials equally among the various compounds, and no doubt the allocation of supplies has now been extended to cover Luft IV.

Colonel Spivey, senior American officer at Luft III, wrote on March 20: *The spring air and a feeling of hope pervade the camp. The boys are playing softball and football, and are outside a lot. I am happy, because they have been shut in all this winter. We have been blessed with good health.*

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PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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AUGUST 1944

Reports from Japanese Camps

By John Cotton

Fukuoka

Last April a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross visited two of the camps in the Fukuoka area, which, he believed, consisted of 19 branch camps. A group of camps was previously reported to contain 4,700 American and United Nations prisoners, probably less than a quarter of that number being Americans. The camps are situated at the western end of the main Japanese island of Kyushu, most of them centered around the cities of Ube, Yone, and Ohama, although one or two of the camps in the group may be at the northern end of the nearby island of Kyushu.

The Delegate visited Fukuoka Branch Camp No. 17 on April 24. On the day of his visit there were 501 prisoners, 101 Americans. Ten of the prisoners were officers and the remainder were enlisted men, all of whom had been captured in the Philippines. The camp was opened July 8, 1942. Although the exact geographical location of this camp was not given, it was stated to be situated on a wooded ground near the shore.

The camp area of nine acres was enclosed with a 9-foot wooden fence. Thirty-three one-story wooden buildings occupied an area of 14 acres. The buildings were divided into rooms with either two prisoners or from four to six noncoms realized men in each room. The buildings, which had glass windows,



U. S. dental surgeon at work in his office in the prisoner of war camp at Shanghai. The dental equipment was provided by the American Red Cross.

were electrically lighted and each contained a charcoal brazier. Bedding appeared to be adequate, with a mosquito net furnished in summer.

The Delegate reported good drinkable water from a nearby city source and an ample supply of water for bathing, laundry, and sanitation purposes. Hot showers and

hot baths were available and there was said to be a large number of faucets for washing.

Rations supplied the prisoners consisted of rice, bread, vegetables, fruit, a small amount of meat and fish, some fat and margarine, sugar, salt, and green tea. Eggs and milk were provided for patients only. The caloric content of the ration was reported to be satisfactory, but the diet was low in proteins. The cooking was done by 15 cooks among the prisoners.

Medical care was provided by one Japanese army surgeon, three Japanese medical orderlies, two doctors and one dentist from among the prisoners, as well as by ten prisoner medical orderlies. The camp had an infirmary with medical and surgical equipment available. Dental treatment was furnished by a dentist at the mining company where most of the men were working. At the time of the visit there were 26 men sick, of whom 19 were in the infirmary and 7 confined to their own quarters. The average weight of the prisoners was given as "about 143 lbs." Since the camp was opened five prisoners had died, four of pneumonia and one of a heart attack.

Working in Mines

According to the Delegate, prisoners had sufficient clothing, underwear, and shoes provided by the Japanese army and the mining company. The prisoners were in posses-

sion of their own personal effects and had complete uniforms. About 450 of the men were working in a coal mine. Working hours were said to be eight hours per day, including one and a half hour's recess. The prisoners worked nine days and rested the tenth.

The camp had a canteen where prisoners could buy canned salmon, fish, fruit, curry powder, fish meal, toilet articles, and the like. A few cigarettes were issued regularly to the officers and men, and small additional supplies were sold at the canteen when available.

Recreation and sports consisted of volleyball, football, baseball, tennis, quoits, miniature golf, and indoor games such as pingpong, chess, and cards. There was ample space in the camp for outdoor sports, as well as a vegetable garden of about one-tenth of an acre. The Delegate said that the prisoners were very proud of the miniature golf course, although it was "primitive." The prisoners obtained five golf balls and manufactured some clubs at the mine. The camp had a library of 200 volumes provided by the YMCA; 50 of these books recently arrived from the last *Gripsholm* shipment.

Since the camp was opened, prisoners had been permitted to write two post cards of about 55 words each in English. At the time of the visit no direct parcels from next of kin had been received, but most of the prisoners had received mail from home. Two shipments of Red Cross relief supplies had been received at the camp and the food was especially appreciated. Four representatives of prisoners were interviewed, but in the presence of Japanese camp authorities.

On the day following the visit to Branch Camp No. 17, the Delegate visited Branch Camp No. 12. His report stated that at this camp there were 397 Dutch prisoners and 3 American medical orderlies. The conditions were said to be much the same as at Branch Camp No. 17.

Zentsuji

The main Zentsuji camp was visited on April 28 by the International Committee Delegate. Since his previous visit (which was reported in the July 1943 issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN) the number of prisoners had increased to 690. Most of the prisoners were officers, of whom 309 were Americans, 190 British, and 69 Dutch. There were also 116 American noncoms and privates and

6 British enlisted men.

The Delegate reported that camps at Mukojima and Innoshima, formerly branch camps in the Fukuoka group, were then under the Zentsuji administration and called Zentsuji Branch Camps Nos. 1 and 2 respectively.

The average weight of the prisoners was reported to be about 149 pounds, a slight increase over the average of a year ago. At the time of the visit 3 men were in the camp infirmary and 22 sick in their quarters. Five deaths had occurred since the opening of the camp. Work, including livestock raising and agriculture, was voluntary for the officers. Enlisted men were required to perform kitchen work and act as cobblers, tailors, barbers, clerks, carpenters, and the like. The camp vegetable garden had been increased to more than four acres, and at the time of the visit the livestock consisted of 300 chickens, 525 rabbits, and a few goats and pigs.

Supplies Received

A total of 467 next-of-kin parcels had been received. Most of the men had received mail, although they reported considerable delays in delivery. Officers had been permitted to write annually three letters of about 240 words, and three post cards of about 57 words. Noncoms and privates were allowed a smaller number of letters and cards annually. Prisoners had reported receiving nine Red Cross food parcels each, as well as a small amount of bulk food, a considerable amount of clothing and toilet articles, some medicines, cigarettes, and quite recently several hundred books and musical instruments from the YMCA, which were shipped on the *Gripsholm* the last time she sailed to the Far East.

Interviewed in the presence of Japanese authorities, seven representatives of the prisoners stated that, on the whole, they considered the treatment had improved lately, but generally was below the standard expected for officer-prisoners. They found living conditions satisfactory but overcrowded, and very cold in winter without heating. They stated that the food at times was insufficient in quantity, inadequate in fats and proteins.

Civilian Internment Camps—Kobe

The four civilian camps in Kobe were visited last March by a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross. He reported

that of the 206 internees there, were Americans, of whom 129 came from Guam. The smallest camp, 2, contained 43 internees and largest, No. 1, held 61. All the camps were in the residential district of looking the city.

The Guam internees (technicians, businessmen, and missionaries) comprised the total population of camps Nos. 3 and 4. In addition, 27 men were housed in No. 1 with Americans formerly residing in Korea and 32 other men, mostly British, who were former residents of Java and Manchuria. Camp No. 2 contained mostly women, many of whom were Catholic sisters, and a few married couples.

Camp No. 1 was housed in a dormitory of the former Canadian Army; No. 2 was in the Eastern Lodge, an Indian Hotel; Nos. 3 and 4 were situated in what before the war were the houses of managers of foreign business concerns. The quarters were fairly comfortable, although somewhat crowded. Dining rooms served also for recreational purposes. Each camp had a small attached space for exercise and outdoor sports, and the camp libraries were augmented by the revolving library provided by the YMCA.

Toilet facilities were adequate but hot baths were limited by lack of fuel. The heating of quarters was also inadequate, but the internees were permitted to correct this situation, to a certain extent, by gathering firewood.

The Delegate reported that both the quality and quantity of food had deteriorated in the past year, although he stated that the rations were higher than for the general civilian population. Meals for Nos. 1 and 2 camps were prepared by Japanese and Chinese cooks in the own kitchens, while the food for camps Nos. 3 and 4 was brought from nearby restaurants and had led to some complaints from the men in the latter camps.

In general, health had been good. A Japanese doctor educated in an American university attended all the camps. Hospitalization was permitted in case of serious illness. Visits to local oculists and dentists were occasionally permitted.

Last December each American internee received a complete clothing outfit, an overcoat, and a pair of shoes from the last *Gripsholm* shipment, in addition to food packages shared by all the Kobe internees.

Stalag II B

A representative of the European Relief Fund who visited Stalag II B last March found that the number of American prisoners of war there had reached 5,000. There was a further slight increase in April and May. The new arrivals of enlisted men in March, April, and May were housed in No. 1 with Americans formerly residing in Korea. Men are also being transferred to other Stalags to II B for assignment to work detachments. Other nationalities prisoners, including British and Yugoslav, are in this camp on work detachments dependent on Stalag II B.

Most of the prisoners spend only a few weeks at the base camp to receive clothing and other supplies and are then sent out to work. Some, however, are held at the base camp for maintenance, distributing equipment, handling Red Cross supplies, and so forth.

In order to assist in developing educational activities at the base, then among the work detachments, Sergeant R. P. Gollomb, formerly of Wisconsin University, has been transferred from Stalag III B to II B. His duties as student spokesman at III B have been given to Sergeant Trygar, a law student of Pittsburgh University. The European Relief Fund is constantly endeavoring to promote educational activities among prisoners of war of all nationalities, and its Swedish representative in Germany pays generous tributes to the cooperation received from the camp authorities.

Stalag III B

A report recently received from the International Committee of the Red Cross stated that there were 4,000 American work detachments dependent on Stalag III B, with about 100 men assigned to them. Most of the men were employed on the construction of a powerhouse. Of the approximately 2,750 American prisoners at III B at the end of May, about 1,900 were noncommissioned officers, and only a very small percentage of the noncoms had volunteered for work on farms. About 160 aviators who were at III B had been transferred to an airman's camp. Like Stalag II B, III B contained prisoners of other nationalities, but the Americans had separate barracks. As in the case of most other German

Reports on German Camps

camps for American prisoners, however, the men at III B complained of overcrowding, insufficient electric light, insufficient fuel for heating, and insufficient hot water for washing clothes. In the winter, moreover, clothes had to be dried in the barracks where the men sleep.

The daily schedule at III B was as follows:

7:30 A. M.	roll call
11:30 A. M.	lunch
4:00 P. M.	supper
5:00 P. M.	roll call
9:00 P. M.	lights out

The camp authorities stated that the basic rations had been reduced by one-third because the prisoners often threw the food away. The men, however, complained about the bad quality of the potatoes, of which the report stated "20 percent have sometimes to be thrown away." The German basic rations, according to the camp authorities, were "not very much appreciated, which causes much discontent." There was also a scarcity of dishes, but the report continued, "this is not as serious as it was before because the prisoners use tin cans for plates, and have made knives, spoons, and forks for themselves." Despite the complaints about the German rations, the Delegates reported that the prisoners at the base camp were gaining weight. They were mainly noncoms who had refused, as was their right, to join work detachments.

The American spokesman, the report stated, exercised absolute control over all relief shipments reaching the camp from Geneva. He went himself to the railroad station and unsealed the cars in the presence of the German authorities. He distributed the food as he wished, and each man in camp or outside on work detachment regularly received one Red Cross food package a week. The distribution of clothing and footwear, however, including that received by the men in next-of-kin parcels, had to conform with the instructions issued by the German High Command.

Up to the end of last February about 20,000 next-of-kin parcels had been received by American prisoners at III B, and the parcels were stated to be "coming through well."

Stalag Luft VI

Since the note on Stalag Luft VI was published in the May issue of

PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, a substantial increase in the number of American noncommissioned airmen there has been reported. At the end of May more than 2,400 Americans were held at this camp.

A Delegate of the International Committee who visited Luft VI on March 3, last, reported that the camp was located in a harsh but healthy climate (in the Memel district), that sanitary conditions were good, and that the camp had a well-equipped infirmary which, at the time of the visit, contained 52 Americans. Several seriously wounded prisoners had been passed for repatriation. Red Cross shipments were reported "arriving well," with the spokesman (Sgt. Francis Paulus) controlling the distribution of food and clothing received from Geneva. The only complaint reported was overcrowding.

Large shipments of Red Cross standard food packages have been made to Luft VI, and the American camp spokesman there reported on June 22 to Geneva that 40,000 food packages were in the camp storehouse.

MAP CHANGE

The map of prisoners of war camps in Europe, published in the June issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, showed Stalag III B as directly north of Berlin. It should have been placed in square C8, just below Stalag III C.

CAMP NEWSPAPERS

On the center pages of this issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN are reproductions of one page of the *Kriegie Times*, prepared by American prisoners of war in the Center Compound at Stalag Luft III, and of *The Circuit*, which is done by American prisoners in the South Compound. Both editions of these camp newspapers have been prepared especially for the benefit of the men's families.

The *Kriegie Times* contains two pages and *The Circuit* one. Complete reproductions of both papers have been made in their original sizes, and copies are being sent to Red Cross chapters throughout the United States.

Any readers desiring to see the full-size reproductions of these newspapers may do so at their local chapters.

War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference Aid to Prisoners of War

By the Very Reverend Monsignor Patrick A. O'Boyle, Executive Director

War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference, as a participating agency of the National War Fund, provides materials coming under the heading of "intellectual relief." Men in prison camps must keep their hands and minds busy, lest they spend all their time reflecting on home and their loved ones, which experience has proved leads to dangerous melancholy and, worse still, despair of their plight. Their hopes must be kept alive, and they must be spiritually fortified to carry on in face of all hardships. At no time should they be allowed to fall prey to physical inactivity or spiritual and mental stagnation.

The program of intellectual relief is four-fold. It represents, within certain limitations, the normal activities which characterize the great American community, the things all young men do in normal times. The four divisions of the program are spiritual, educational, recreational, and occupational. Quantities of materials are supplied under each of these headings, which makes possible

a great variety of activities in every camp. Our objective is "some constructive activity for everyone."

The materials provided by War Relief Services—NCWC—except those of a spiritual nature, are made available without regard to nationality, color, or creed. They are presented for the community use of each camp. The religious materials, provided by the Bishops' War Emergency and Relief Committee, are, of course, intended only for the Catholic young men, with the understanding that the leaders of other creeds will provide religious material as needed.

Over 500,000 articles have been shipped to prisoners of war, including those in all the camps in the United States and Canada. Currently camps in North Africa are being supplied.

Filling Camp Needs

Working in close cooperation with the American Red Cross and the International Red Cross, the NCWC has already sent in excess of 64 tons of materials to Geneva, Switzerland,

for distribution to the camps in Europe. In Switzerland, the Catholic Mission acts as consignee of this material, maintaining a large warehouse for the storage, sorting, and repacking of materials before they go into the camps. The mission enjoys membership in the Consultative Board of Intellectual Relief and Cooperation at Geneva. This board is made up of agencies authorized to carry on this type of work and serves as a clearing house on the general needs of all camps. Through the International Red Cross Delegates, and the camp directors of the mission, it is possible to determine where materials from this country are needed most. Through this same arrangement thousands of special requests from individual prisoners are received and filled.

To date, approximately 43,000 new books have been forwarded to Geneva. Plans are now completed to provide study courses on 265 different subjects, with textbooks and school supplies already going into the camps. Through a correspondence course plan, worked out with DePaul and Loyola Universities in Chicago, and in collaboration with our representatives in Geneva, many of our men will return home with new skills and learnings, well equipped to make a fresh start in business or some chosen profession.

The occupational equipment sent to the camps includes carpentry sets, wood carving sets, basketry, wood burning sets, loom weaving, leather craft sets, metal and crystal craft sets, oil painting, plastic reliefs, water color sets, clay modeling and lucite sets, cartooning equipment, draftsmen's kits, and other craft materials. Recreational equipment of every description is also sent.

It is our fervent hope and prayer that before long the situation in the Far East will change so that a means can be found to bring material and spiritual relief regularly and on adequate scale to our people interned there. We can only say that in anticipation of such opportunity quantities of supplies are held in readiness, so that no time will be lost in taking full advantage of the privilege to serve our fellow Americans in those distant lands.

Repatriates from Germany

Of the seriously sick and seriously wounded American prisoners of war in Europe, more than 100 so far have been repatriated by the German government. On the latest exchange in which the *Gripsholm* participated, 65 American prisoners of war were repatriated, all but one of them enlisted men and non-commissioned officers. Prisoners from Stalags II B and 344 (VIII B), from Lazarets 344, XIII D, VIII A, and Freising (Stalag VII A) were among those interviewed by representatives of the Red Cross about conditions in the camps and hospitals in Germany from which they had come. The information obtained from these repatriates is summarized below.

Stalag 344 (VIII B)

Some of the men from this camp had been confined in "convalescent barracks" (ordinary barracks so designated because the infirmary was full). The camp was overcrowded with men sleeping on the floors or on tables. There were 190 men in a space 100 by 30 feet, in three-tier bunks.

There were very few panes of glass remaining in the barracks and most of the windows were boarded up. The fuel furnished by the authorities was insufficient for heating. The men reported that the German food was of poor quality, and that the bread and potato rations had been cut recently. While in camp, they had received a Canadian, British, or New Zealand food package each week, Stalag 344 being largely a British camp.

Great difficulty was experienced by the Americans in obtaining clothing, and one British uniform with overcoat was issued to the Americans. Some American clothing arrived and was distributed in April. Shipments from Stalag 344 from American Red Cross stocks at Geneva, as well as from other camps in Germany, have recently been subject to increasing delays caused by transportation difficulties.

One of the camp compounds at Stalag 344 was totally without water. The compound in which the Americans were held had water available only three or four hours a day, with only one hot shower a month permitted. The bathing facilities were overrun with fleas and delousing was carried out every six weeks. The toilet fa-

cilities were described as primitive and unsanitary.

The mail at 344 was irregular; some old mail had arrived from Italy, but no parcels had been received by the prisoners interviewed.

Stalag II B

Conditions here, according to repatriates, were evidently somewhat better than at Stalag 344. Overcrowding, however, was also a great problem at this camp. The brick buildings were damp, heating was insufficient, and broken window panes had been repaired with cardboard.

Prisoners at Stalag II B considered the German food as being "according to regulations." There was, at the time the repatriates left, a two months' supply of Red Cross food packages on hand.

American clothing had been issued to the prisoners. The men in the convalescent barracks had one German blanket and two American blankets. In the camp, prisoners had only one blanket apiece. There were no additional blankets for new arrivals.

The bathing and washing facilities were considered adequate, with one hot shower a week permitted. The men said that bedbugs, fleas, and lice were present. There was sufficient water, and fuel was supplied for heating water to do laundry. The supply of soap was adequate.

Mail at this camp, too, was irregular; letters mailed from the United States in January were received in the camp in April. A few next-of-kin parcels had been received.

The commandant of the camp, it was said, was not well disposed toward the Americans, and long discussions were necessary on any points raised.

Oflag 64

Mr. Larry Allen, the captured Associated Press correspondent who was transferred from Italy to Germany in September 1943, was repatriated from Oflag 64. The German rations served to American officer-prisoners (numbering slightly over 500 in mid-May) at Oflag 64, according to Mr. Allen were:

Breakfast: Water, which the men used for making coffee from their Red Cross packages.
Lunch: A slice of black bread, one-inch thick; and a small plate of soup made out of carrots or turnips.
Supper: Two, sometimes only one, small soggy potatoes.
Additional items, issued once every week or ten days:
One ounce of German marmalade, one ounce of poor quality apple marmalade, one ounce of beet sugar, one ounce of German cheese, one slice of German wurstmeat.

Each prisoner at Oflag 64 regularly received a standard Red Cross (Continued on page 9)



Packing articles for prisoners of war and interned civilians at the warehouse of War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.



American airmen at Stalag Luft III. First row: No. 1, Capt. Wm. H. Mayer; No. 3, Capt. Jack Bentley; No. 5, Capt. Charles Groome. Picture sent by Mrs. Wm. H. Mayer, 235 E. Hanover St., Trenton 8, N. J., who will be glad to send prints to families who recognize members of the group.



KRIEGLIE TIMES



Vol. 2, No. 1

Stalag Luft III

Sagan, Germany

February 8, 1945

EDITORIAL FOR HOME FRONT

KRIEGLIE TIMES REPORTER DEPICTS POW DAILY LIFE

By SIDNEY SHORE, 2/LT., USAAF

Day begins at 9.45 with 1st call for appeal. Some intrepid souls rise at 8 to log around the camp, build fires & carry water for morning brew—but that is not the norm.

The average Krieglie gets up just in time to make 10 o'clock roll-call. Long practice has eliminated waste morning motions and 15 minutes is ample time to dress, wash & gulp down coffee. Bread & jam is consumed on the way out to parade.

Appeal -- official count -- is almost like reveille. There are the same ranks of men, headed by company commanders, all held erect by the command of "Attention."

When weather permits, ranks are opened for calisthenics. A snowfall is signal for a snowball fight, rain a prelude to disgruntled huddles. At the adjutant's dismissal command, the shower sprinklers are off. Authorities allow men to take hot showers in groups of 24, at a daily average of five such groups. Fastest man is also the cleanest. As one apologist puts it, however, "if a guy doesn't race, he doesn't need a shower so often."

Dietician begins the daily routine of camp. Classes, library, cooking schedules & belated breakfasts clear the field. Necessity has developed latent mechanical abilities. Pans are fabricated out of tin cans, brooms of string, chairs from wooden Red Cross boxes. The handy man is the hero of camp.

(Continued on Page 2)

TWO-YEAR MARK

First American Airman to be taken as POW in this theatre, Lt. (Sg.) John Dunn, USN, of New Haven Conn., will pass the two-year mark on April 14, of this year.

CONTEST FOR BABY & WIFE

The American craze for contests is true—even in a prisoner of war camp.

Pictures from home of fat, toothless, grinning and crying babies

prompted this camp newspaper to decide once and for all which proud POW had the prize baby.

The contestants, many of whom have not seen their heirs, are anxiously awaiting plots from home. Final judging by 4 colonels will not be held until all contestants receive pictures from the wife.

Concurrently with the KT baby contest, the competing paper, Gefangenens Gazette, is sponsoring a Miss Stalag contest for wives and sweethearts.

The Krieglie is assured of "escape" in the theatre. Policy of the present staff is to present comedies & musicals, jam sessions & symphony recordings.

One barracks has been devoted to stage auditorium & classroom. In these, shows are rehearsed, sets constructed, productions presented, beating capacity is approximately 20 percent of camp strength, requiring five performances of each show.

First American play presented after the British were removed to another camp, was "Charlie's Aunt." On the program are "Our Town," "Tobacco Road," "Man Who Came to Dinner," & "Fiddler on the Roof," an original musical extravaganza.

(Continued on Page 2)

KOLLEGE

Four classrooms & 37 day classes meeting each week is the policy of the Education department. Encouraged by textbook contribution from YMCA in Geneva, Krieglie college offers classes as diverse as differential calculus, body building & accounting for the small business.

Most popular courses are languages with German, Spanish & French leading in that order. Lecture & discussion groups meet weekly. Latest innovation in lecture series is "Married Happiness," under a psychologist.

AMERICAN SENIOR OFFICER PICTURES LIFE IN PRISON

By DEIMAR T. SPIVEY, COLONEL, USAAF

In the hope that our people at home may have a small insight into our prison life, we dedicate this issue of our camp newspaper, designed for home consumption. We hope you receive it and by so doing come into closer contact with us and our daily lives.

It is extremely difficult for us to keep abreast of your doings and with the trend of our times because of our complete isolation imposed by censorship, separation from the other than German news, and barbed wire and alert guards.

We strive to set up a model community designed to keep our bodies, minds, and souls healthy and alert, awaiting the day we can return to our own homes within our own land.

We think of you and thank all of you for your wonderful gifts to us -- from individuals, and from the Red Cross, YMAA, and other charitable institutions, -- and above all for your letters and prayers.

Those who detain us have not treated us badly, and have given us many small concessions which have made our incarceration lighter. The spirit of the Geneva convention has been carried out and our treatment, in general, has been good. For this consideration we are grateful and know, that in return, the treatment of German prisoners at home is considerate.

We have our moments of loneliness and hunger for the companionship of home and home folks, but on the whole we laugh and play most of the time. The rest of the time is spent studying, reading, working and hoping.

We shall hold firm to our faith in all of you and are ever assured of your love and consideration.

(Continued on Page 2)

POINT SYSTEM FOR ECONOMY

Chocolate bars & cigarettes are coin of the realm in a prisoner of war camp. German allowance to officers & men are meager, theoretically, but they devolve to mere book-keeping.

The weekly ration, through the Red Cross, is one chocolate bar and 50 cigarettes per man. Excessively desirable, not abundant, and easily handled, they make convenient legal tender.

Recently established is Foodacoo, a bartering system in which a point value is given to food items. Highest on the list is powdered milk, 150 points. Fine of butter & jam are 80 points, oatmeal 15. Camp economists feed at an inflationary period now that cigarettes, parcels & personal parcels bringing chocolate are beginning to roll in.

The five lagers that make up Stalag Luft III are fed and clothed by the men who work in the vorlager offices. Monday & Thursday are the big days of the week -- when issues of Red Cross food parcels are made.

Because of German regulations, each parcel must be opened and all time punched in order to prevent hoarding. A squad of 15 enlisted men juggle the huge crates like loggers working a jam Gerduro.

U. S. EDITION
NUMBER 1
MONDAY, APRIL 10

THE CIRCUIT

SOUTH COMPOUND

RELIGIOUS SERVICE HELD IN THEATRE

PASTORS TEACH ETHICS, PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY

Religion is a vital part of Krieglie life. Both Protestant and Roman Catholic services are held each Sunday in the camp theatre.

Padre Murdo MacDonald, a Scottish pastor, captured while serving with the British paratroops in Africa, is "official" chaplain for the south compound. Protestant services are under his leadership as well as a discussion and Bible Study class.

The Padre also teaches a session in psychology and philosophy.

Father Goudreau, a French Canadian priest taken from the sinking "Ambey," in the early part of the war while enroute to missionary work in Africa, cares for the spiritual needs of the Roman Catholic officers and men.

Services have recently been enhanced by the addition of an altar cross and floral pieces, the contributions of Don Stine, Alameda, Calif., and J.M. Diffley, Birmingham.

OTHER CAMP PUBLICATIONS HAVE SHORT DURATIONS

The CIRCUIT had not been long in publication when the American spirit of competition prompted the appearance of two other news sheets, "The Staff" and "The New Yorker," the latter fashioned on the U.S. publication of the same title. Their run was brief but brilliant.

"The Staff" was printed by hand and appeared weekly. The cartoons and prose of Joseph Boyd, Tex. Eyck, N.J., assisted by Norman Retchin, Harrington, Ill., provided more humor than most conservative news coverage of the CIRCUIT.

Del Ray of Buffalo, N.Y. fathered "The New Yorker," writing and typing two entire issues.

H. H. Van Ande Chicago "Your copy of the new Sears Roebuck catalogue has possibly already reached you."

It "isn't always possible for a member of our Army to reach a shopping center, but with our catalogue it is a simple matter."

Captain J.W. Swanson

EDITORIAL

Through these composite publications we endeavor to bring you greetings from a community of Americans, and in the pages to set the temper of our existence.

Introspection suffers with intimacy, and it is not our wish to decry our position any further than to offer a smile for worried next-of-kin and a tolerant smirk on smug enquire bestowers of "country club" tags.

Suffice it to say that speakers, musicians, writers, artists, actors, men who were none of these but are learning to be all are using these days to build a world of mind that embraces tolerance and ability to work together.

We hope to make the "home" editions a periodical function and thus send ourselves factually to you.

By means of this simple expedient, we say -- and in the echo are unspoken hopes -- "Hello," American style.

OUT OF THE MAILBOX

Freemont, Neb. "Do you have enough money or do you want me to send some in a money order."

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S. A. C. Stalag Luft III Col. Alkire, San Francisco, Cal. Col. Goodrich, Augusta, Ga. Lt. Col. Clark, San Antonio, Texas. Lt. Col. McKickle, Deland, S.D. Lt. Col. Klock, Miami Beach, Fla. Major Houston, Dundalk, Mo. Major Diamond, Van Nuys, Calif. Capt. Shuck, Lewiston, Pa. Capt. Frost, Oak Park, Ill. Capt. Carmichael, Marysville, Mo. Capt. Smithwick, Palm Sprge, Cal. Capt. Macdonald, Fortree, Scotland. Capt. Daniel, Spokane, Wash. Capt. Williams, Marietta, Ohio. Lt. Schrupp, Young America, Minn.

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CAMP ORGAN MAKES DEBUT

OCT. 6, 1943

BULLETIN STYLE, THE CIRCUIT APPEARS THREE TIMES WEEKLY

The need of an organ to disseminate camp news and collect a somewhat meager store of "home" information was answered October 6, 1943 by the CIRCUIT, south camp's tri-weekly.

Tyred in form initiative of U.S. dolies and with lettered in heads, the single issue is posted in the corner of house wall, by custom the larger bulletin board.

Not yet two months the CIRCUIT has been in its little Chisel of Chicago. Through him, as well as another Chicagoan Capt. Deadman, and L.J. Hawley, Berkeley, Calif., the CIRCUIT issues is planned by newspaper editors the task of reporting, criticizing, rendering -- in brief, aiding readers to find an optimum basis for adjustment.

Former reproduction of our CIRCUIT issues is planned. Departments of theatre, sports, literary, and band are managed by Joe Klean, Seattle, R.M. Bahner, N.Y., Sun Durance, Brooklyn, and Sgt. Graves, Council Bluffs, Ia. Deadman covers the military situation with lucid comments reared of years served with the "Times" foreign desk.

Essential art work is in the facile hands of Ben Smotherman, Port Worth, Frank Meyers, Cleveland, Ed Allen, Houston, and L.E. Hansder, Santa Ana, Calif. Smotherman's "Fenny," a cartoon depicting

American POW's in Germany refer to themselves as Krieglies.

It's an abbreviation of the German "Kriegesgefangener," war prisoner, which the Americans and British found too hard to pronounce.

adventures of a girl correspondent in the ETO, appears during the week, while Meyers' droll "Lookie" cartoons on the weekly Sunday comic page along with "Herules, the Pup," by Allen, Cpl. Olicker, New York City, has contributed skillful portraits and landscape sketches.

Invaluable in repertorial capacities are Robert Katz, Hammond, Pa., Joe Hudson, Little Rock, Ark., C. L. Farnhart, Lebanon, Ohio, Charles Goldschmidt, N.Y.C., George Vasil, Spokane, Wash., C.O. Bartt, Quevotte, N.Y., L.C. Brown, Albuquerque, N.M., and W.L. Barker, Indianapolis. Among the latter's jobs is the collecting of mail items used in "Out of the Mailbox."

By Ben Smotherman

PENNY

MISS PENNY, THE BOYS AND I WERE WONDERING IF YOU WOULD PICK THE BEST COSTUME AT OUR BALL TONIGHT! WOULD YOU OBLIGE US?

CERTAINLY, BILL! I'LL EVEN KISS THE WINNER!

So that night----- WE'RE READY FOR YOU TO JUDGE US, MISS PENNY!

WELL, BOYS, IT LOOKS LIKE AN ALL-AROUND TIE! LIKE YOUR LIPS-----AND THE LINE FORMS ON THE RIGHT!



Letters

Far Eastern
Shanghai War Prisoners' Camp
December 26, 1943

Dear Mr. Egle:

Another Christmas has passed and, as last year, the war prisoners in this camp were most fortunate during the holidays, due to your untiring efforts, and the kindness and consideration of the Japanese military authorities.

Holiday routine began on the afternoon of the 24th. The fruit, nuts, candy, and cigarettes were distributed together with CRB \$20.00 per man, the latter donation from the American internees on Haiphong Road. The camp canteen, well stocked with peanut butter, jam, and tobacco, experienced the usual holiday rush. A group of men who had been rehearsing under Doctor Pollard's supervision and the Italian choir rendered the Christmas Eve spirit complete by singing carols outside the barracks at midnight. On Christmas morning at 10 o'clock, the Catholics held Rosary under Major Devereux's leadership and half an hour later the Reverend Nakiyama conducted divine Christmas service for the Protestants.

Your most welcome, sincere, and encouraging Christmas message from the President and associates of the International Red Cross Committee of Geneva, and the Christmas message from our Chief of Staff, delivered to us by the camp authorities on Christmas morning, were equally effective as a morale factor, as was the Christmas dinner in fortifying and temporarily satiating our physical well-being. My regret is that you cannot personally hear the comments made by the individuals concerning our Christmas dinner and the assistance you have afforded in the past, for those comments would convey a much clearer conception of what your efforts mean to us than any remarks made by me.

On behalf of all the war prisoners interned in this camp, please convey our sincere thanks and appreciation to the International Red Cross Committee of Geneva, to all the members of your staff, the Swiss community, Dr. Ching, and to all our friends in Shanghai, and especially to you, Mr. Egle, for the material help you have afforded us in the past, the assurances you have given us for the future, and in particular at this time for your efforts which made 1943 Christmas indeed a merry one for us.

Sincerely and gratefully,

W. W. ASHURST,
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps.

(This letter was sent to Mr. Edouard Egle, Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Shanghai.)

Shanghai War Prisoners' Camp
July 15, 1943

(Received March 1944)

Dearest Pat:

Again we are permitted to send out a card. Hope this will get through. I've received a couple of letters from you and you'll never know how much I appreciate them. They're pretty well read and re-read by now.

Life goes on pretty much the same as before, days roll by in an endless procession with little or no change. Naturally, I'm looking forward to being free as we are all.



Unidentified American musicians at Stalag III B, February 29, 1944.

We're still working daily, building a park about three miles from camp, which work sends us to bed well able to fall asleep.

The Red Cross sends in supplies once or twice a month which do much to lighten our existence.

Camp No. 4, Philippines
Undated.

Dear Mom, Dad, Sister:

How is everyone at home? Hope you are all fine. Am getting along fairly well even though I am a P.O.W. Hope this war doesn't last much longer so that I can get home. Tell all my friends hello. Love.

Hiraoka Camp, Japan
July 3, 1943

Dear Daddy and All:

Once again I am permitted to write you a few lines. I am still in good health and hope you are the same. I've started working since I last wrote you. The past two months have been very wet, making work disagreeable. Jessie, I received your letter of June 22, this March. Your letter and others have meant so much to me. I anxiously await more and please send photographs. If your outlook on the future is as bright as mine, we have no real worries. If I only knew how far or near the day of our meeting is, this life would be much easier. Do not worry about my safety for I am still well cared for. I hope to see you soon, until I do, may the best of health and happiness be yours, and may God be with us all. Give Sherry my love and may God bless you.

European

Stalag Luft III
February 13, 1944

Dear Mother and Folks:

Sorry my last card contained nothing but the "gimmies" but even tho' it seemed like a lot of things to ask for there are always some people here who can use them.

For instance, I'm gradually picking up such things as a razor, toothbrush, etc., but there is still no surplus, but I repeat the Red Cross packages are wonderful. We have another variety show last night which was very good. My leg gives me no trouble now and the cast is due to come off at the end of the month. I repeat that I am amazed at the excellent treatment we are receiving. The medical staff of English, Australian and New Zealand doctors are exceptional. Time goes by faster now than it did when we can't wait for the time to come when we can return home.

Stalag XVII B
January 19, 1944

Dear Mr. Strong:

During the past several months our population here in camp has increased to the extent that we now find a pressing need in both our fictional and technical libraries for additional reading material. We are peeling to you for aid in this matter.

We have enclosed lists of authors and popular books both fiction and technical which may aid you in compiling a statement. These lists are based on the habits of 2,500 men and represent a reasonable cross-section of interests.

Our libraries at present are now in operation. The fiction library is worked on a check-out basis, occupies one-quarter of a barrack, and has a bookbinding program in conjunction with it. The technical library reserves its books for reference only. Tables and benches are provided in the library where students may study in quiet. Both libraries fall under the jurisdiction of the school, but each is managed by a responsible man and staff.

We are very much pleased with the operation and results shown by the libraries. We feel that a great deal more could be accomplished if more reading material were at our disposal.

We are indeed grateful for your sincere

PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

interest in our problems, and your cooperation has been most encouraging.

ALEXANDER M. HADDON,

Educational Director.

This letter was written to Mr. Tracy Strong, Jr., Secretary, European Society for Relief, Geneva, Switzerland.)

Stalag VII A
(Undated)

I am sorry to inform you of this but these people treat us far from the way these men are treated over there. We are lucky to get a bath once every two months. Their best meal is sugar beets soup. It's a good thing our Red Cross takes good care of us. They give us plenty warm clothing and food. I'd sure be glad to get back and live again.

German prisoners of war in the United States are treated strictly in accordance with the requirements of the Geneva Convention.)

Stalag II B
April 15, 1944

Dear Mother, Dad and Bros.

Life is quite nice here because it looks as if warm weather has arrived. It is going to be a little tougher with much more work in the longer hours. Perhaps twelve to fifteen hours a day. I am thinking of the approaching winter which may be a lot colder than this last one. Warm gloves, heavy overalls, heavy coveralls. Hope it's over.

Offlag 64
February 14, 1944

Dear Folks:

As requested I am sending tidbits of activity. Our "Kriegy College of now and the cast is due to come off at the end of the month. I repeat that I am amazed at the excellent treatment we are receiving. The medical staff of English, Australian and New Zealand doctors are exceptional. Time goes by faster now than it did when we can't wait for the time to come when we can return home.

Swiss Ford, who hails from East Orange, N. Y. Featured as baritone soloist in our choral group is 1st Lt. Tom Smith, a student of U. of North Carolina. His ambition is to sing at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. The choral group has 21 mixed voices and an accompanist. On Sundays they sing in the chapel for religious services. The three most popular songs in camp are: Low Man on a Totem Pole, Epic of America, and The Robe (story of Jesus). Reading is our greatest diversion.

Any reader of the Bulletin knows the correct address of Mrs. Muck Kahn, the please get in touch with Miss M. Gershater, 1540 Willis Ave., No. 10, Nebraska. Mrs. Kahn's address had been incorrectly given as Omaha, Nebraska. In Lincoln, Nebraska, M. Gershater has a message for Mrs. Kahn her brother, a prisoner in Stalag 344.

BARRACKS BAGS

The Army Quartermaster Corps has returned over to the American Red Cross barracks bags for distribution to all American prisoners of war held in Germany. These barracks bags, which are the same as those issued to American soldiers, will be distributed through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY.

I am still in a P. O. W. Camp near Moumein, Burma. There are 20,000 Prisoners, being Australian, Dutch, English, and American. There are several camps of 2,3000 prisoners who work at settled labour daily.

We are quartered in very plain huts. The climate is good. Our life is now easier with regard to food, medicine and clothes. The Japanese Commander sincerely endeavours to treat prisoners kindly.

Officers' salary is based on salary of Japanese Officers of the same rank and every prisoner who performs labour or duty is given daily wages from 25 cents (minimum) to 45 cents, according to rank and work.

Canteens are established where we can buy some extra foods and smokes. By courtesy of the Japanese Commander we conduct concerts in the camps, and a limited number go to a picture show about once per month.

LOVE TO ALL AM DAIN' FINE

The card reproduced above was evidently printed and issued by the Japanese authorities, with the exception of "Love to all, am doing fine," which was printed in by the prisoner. The signature, which has been deleted, was in the prisoner's own handwriting. This card was received by the prisoner's father at Jacksboro, Texas. Many next of kin in the United Kingdom of British prisoners have received similar cards, but this is the first one to reach the United States that has come to our attention.

Extracts from Letters

Far Eastern

From Osaka Camp, Japan: "News: I can receive all letters. Notify friends. None yet. Can't speak as much Japanese as you'd expect. This camp is the most cosmopolitan possible."

From Branch Camp 2, Tokyo: "A few words to let you know I am well and happy in Japan. . . . Hope to be with you soon." This was the fourth in a series of letters from this prisoner to his family in Chillicothe, Texas. The letter was written August 28, 1943, and received in March 1944. Previous to this an undated card was received in December 1943; a letter sent March 9, 1943, was received in August 1943; and the prisoner's first communication, a card written December 2, 1942, was received in July 1943.

European

From Stalag XVII B, a sergeant wrote to his sister in Minneapolis last December: "Right now I'm in Austria. It's cold as blazes here. Have been getting my Red Cross parcel every week. . . . Two of my old crew are here and lots of fellows I knew during training."

"Hear that you receive circulars about how nice this place is," wrote a major in Stalag Luft III to his mother last March. "Save them for a laugh when I get back with the truth."

A lieutenant in an undesignated German camp wrote his mother in Terre Haute, Ind.: "Have befriended several Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Irishmen whom I hope to visit if I return via Britain. I feel I am out of the war now but am quite satisfied and hope it ends soon." (This letter was

sent from Germany on April 3 and received in Terre Haute May 24.)

"Am OK but sure tired of this life. 7 months POW. Tell all hello and write a lot. I can't write much." This letter from a sergeant at Stalag III B was sent in April and received at Sweetwater, Texas, in May.

A letter from a prisoner at Stalag II B to his family in Ulmers, S. C., contained the following: "I am feeling fine, and in the best of health. I am on a farm in Dutchland, milking cows and plowing, and everything that goes along with a farm."

A prisoner at Stalag XVII B wrote to his fiancée in Fort Wayne, Indiana, last December: "Our Red Cross parcels came in the other day. Enough to last a couple of months. We were pretty lucky—only out of them two weeks before these came in."

From Stalag Luft III, on January 8, a new arrival wrote his family in Minneapolis: "Don't worry about me because I am well and haven't been hurt at all and I'll be OK. I am really safer here than I was flying on missions, so don't worry about anything."

REPATRIATES

(Continued from page 5)

food package every week, which provides about 14,000 calories of food.

Statements made by Mr. Allen and other repatriates that the German government was not living up to the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention were promptly taken up by cable with the proper authorities in Switzerland.

SHORTWAVE BROADCASTS

Messages from American prisoners of war are broadcast by Japanese radio stations in Tokyo, Manila, and Hsinking (Manchuria), no doubt to tempt Americans to listen to Japanese propaganda. Most of the messages follow a stereotyped form and invariably express thanks to the Japanese authorities for kind treatment, which suggests that prisoners are not permitted to express their real feelings. Some messages are read by announcers, while others are broadcast from transcriptions, thus making it impossible to determine their authenticity.

Recently most of the prisoners have referred to the receipt of mail and packages from home, although in a few cases statements are made that no mail or packages have been received. Typical are the following: "I received eight letters and one box from you and several [letters] from others." "Received your letters of June through September 1943, and also package." Quite recently a few men in the Philippines have mentioned receipt of mail dated as late as December 1943.

Telegraphic advices of prisoners' broadcasts monitored in this country are forwarded to relatives by the Office of the Provost Marshal General, which has previously warned that such messages cannot be accepted as official reports of the United States War Department.

PARCEL LABELS FOR EUROPE

The Office of the Provost Marshal General frequently receives requests for parcel labels from relatives of prisoners of war.

Parcel labels are issued to the designated next of kin of prisoners of war in Europe. The labels go out automatically every 60 days, and it is not necessary to request them.

Relatives other than the designated next of kin of prisoners of war are not entitled to parcel labels, and requests to the Provost Marshal General for them should not be made. There is, however, no objection to other members of a prisoner's family contributing to the next-of-kin parcel, provided it does not exceed the permitted weight and size.

USE OF LETTER FORMS URGED

A report received through the International Committee of the Red Cross from the American spokesman at Stalag XVII B strongly urges the use of printed letter forms in communicating with prisoners of war in Europe. He reported that such standardized forms simplify the work of the German censors and so speed up the delivery of mail.

As was announced in the June issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, the new printed form (No. 111, WD, PMG) may be obtained from postoffices throughout the United States. This form requires a six cent air mail stamp.

Readers are again reminded that mail for prisoners of war in Germany should be placed in an outer envelope, addressed simply: "Postmaster—Prisoner of War Mail."

For mail to prisoners held by Japanese, the new post card form announced on page 9 of the July issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN is recommended. Whenever the new post card form is not available at Red Cross chapters, an ordinary post card may be used.

NEW ITEMS FOR PERSONAL PARCELS

A number of new items have been added to the list of approved articles which may be included in next-of-kin parcels for prisoners of war and civilian internees in Europe.

A partial list of miscellaneous articles which may now be sent includes the following kitchen and eating utensils, which must not be glass, enamelware, or other breakable material: frying pans, baking pans, spoons, forks, coffee pots, dinner plates, mugs, mixing bowls, and can openers.

Food items now listed include powdered eggs, powdered milk, flour (including such mixtures as Bisquick, gingerbread mix, pancake flour, etc.), dried puddings, fruit cakes, and garden seeds. The amount of chocolate which may be sent has been increased to two pounds.

Next of kin have been sent the complete list of additional items by the Office of the Provost Marshal General.

According to recent repatriates, prisoners of war in Germany are not permitted to write letters in ink. Therefore, it is not advisable to send fountain pens, even though they are on the permitted list.

YMCA SHIPMENTS

Since the beginning of 1943, War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA has shipped, on Red Cross vessels, one and a quarter million articles, valued at more than \$1,000,000, for American and Allied prisoners of war. The articles included 600,000 books, 300,000 athletic items, 30,000 musical instruments, 100,000 phonograph records, 100 motion picture programs, as well as considerable handicraft, theater, and indoor games supplies. Very large shipments have recently been made from Geneva to Stalag Luft I and Stalags II B and XVII B, in Germany, to meet the growing needs of American prisoners.

Two hundred and twenty-five boxes of similar materials went last year to the Far East on the Gripsholm, with an additional 300 cases going to Vladivostok and now awaiting transshipment to Japan. Over \$150,000 worth of goods have been purchased in the Far East with funds sent through Sweden by the YMCA.

In addition to the above, War Prisoners' Aid has forwarded to American prisoners of war \$250,000 worth of athletic, musical, and other supplies furnished by Special Services Division, U. S. Army.

RUMANIAN VISIT

Marshal Antonescu, the Rumanian leader, visited the camp for American airmen-prisoners at Timis on March 1. After hearing a complaint made by the men, he immediately revoked an order of the camp commander which forbade direct communication between the American officers and men. A report on the visit recently received from the American Red Cross representative in Geneva stated that the prisoners made no other complaint.

Marshal Antonescu promised to have motor buses provided so that the prisoners could make sightseeing trips—on condition the men gave their word of honor they would not attempt to escape.

A letter from an American prisoner dated March 12 to his family at Caldwell, Texas, said that the camp had been visited by "the Grand Marshal and the Prime Minister." They inspected the buildings, gave the men cigarettes, and inquired if there was anything the guards could do to "make us more comfortable."

The number of American prisoners in Rumania had increased to over 400 by the end of May.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The papers reported in May that the Russians and Japanese had agreed to allow supplies from the United States to be sent through Vladivostok to our prisoners of war held by Japan. So far I have not received a parcel label for my son in the Philippines. When can I expect one?

The Japanese government did offer to send a ship to Vladivostok at regular intervals to pick up relief supplies sent from the United States for American and other Allied prisoners of war in the Far East. The Soviet government has agreed to make available certain Soviet Pacific ports for this purpose and the Japanese government has been so informed. Thus far, however, the Japanese have not indicated when ship movements will begin. Whether it will be possible to send next-of-kin parcels to the Far East will depend on the amount of shipping space available and the willingness of the Japanese to deliver them.

My husband, a second lieutenant and bombardier, is a prisoner of war in Germany. A recent letter from him says that "pay for his keep" is deducted from his salary. Approximately how much is this, and, aside from my allotment, how is the remainder taken care of?

Your husband's mention of his salary apparently refers to the monthly sums paid him by the German government, as provided for in the Geneva Convention. This money is used by officers for living expenses, canteen purchases, etc. The United States government makes no deduction from your husband's salary for the payments made to him by the German authorities. The allotments for which he has arranged are the only deductions made from the amounts being placed monthly to his credit by the War Department until his status is changed.

I am sending my son a sweater and pajamas and socks in his next parcel, and would like to mark them with his name. Is this permitted?



A group of unidentified American prisoners of war at Stalag Luft III, sent by Corporal John J. Bell. Luft III is an officers' camp but noncommissioned officers are doubtless there for camp maintenance.

A. Simple name tabs, sewed only at the ends so that the censor may look underneath them, are considered the best method of marking. If you cannot buy these, you could make them by printing the name in indelible ink on ordinary tape cut to the proper length.

I am still having difficulty getting the right kind of box to send parcels to my son in a German camp. The shops have the right sizes but they are usually covered with patriotic slogans and flags. Where can I get plain ones?

A. The local Red Cross chapter may now obtain a stock of such cartons from the Red Cross area office. A note concerning this was published in the June issue of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, page 10.

What happens to Wacs and other servicewomen when they are taken prisoner?

A. An official of the War Department states that none had been reported captured in Europe up to the middle of June. If any are captured by Germany, it is possible that the procedure used by Japan for army nurses taken in the Philippines would be followed. This was to put them in civilian internment camps where there were other American women. German nurses captured when the American forces took Cherbourg were returned, under a white flag, to the German lines in Normandy.

Can I have a book on radio sent to my son in Germany?

A. No.

I have already sent two parcels to my husband at Stalag II B, Germany, and he has not yet acknowledged them. Should I continue sending parcels every 60 days, or wait until those already sent have been acknowledged?

A. We would strongly recommend that you continue using your parcel labels. The parcels already sent may have been delayed in reaching your husband, or his acknowledgments may have been delayed or gone astray. It usually takes not less than four months from the date of mailing a parcel to a German camp to receive an acknowledgment from the prisoner.

When the war with Germany ends and our prisoners are released, will they be expected to engage in active combat against Japan—assuming they are physically fit and that we are still at war with Japan?

A. That would be a matter for the Army to decide.

My son has sent me a card from the Japanese prisoner of war camp at Zentsuji, in which he says I should request the War Department to give me a Class E allotment, and that he wants me to have it as soon as possible. How should I go about getting it?

A. Send your son's card, or a photostatic copy, to the Office of Dependency Benefits, Newark, New Jersey. According to our information, this will be accepted as an authorization for the allotment.

Change of Address

All next of kin officially listed for prisoners of war and civilian internees have the PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN addressed to them in the office of the Provost Marshal General. The same address to them in the Office of the Office of information and parcel labels from that office. Therefore, if next of kin inform the Provost Marshal General, War Department, Washington, D. C., of changes of address, the BULLETIN as well as official notices should reach them promptly. In advising of a change of address, next of kin should use the following form:

"I am officially listed as next of kin of Pfc. John Smith, prisoner of war No. 000 (or service serial number) held at

Camp..... Germany
or Camp....., Japan.

I have moved from.....
to..... and wish all
mail sent to me there."

If it is more convenient for next of kin, notice of change of address can be sent to the local Red Cross chapter.

Many names in addition to next of kin are on a separate Red Cross mailing list for the PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN. For those who are not next of kin, therefore, the following form should be used in advising the Red Cross (through the local chapter or by letter addressed to PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN, National Headquarters, American Red Cross, Washington 13, D. C.) of a change of address:

"I receive the PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN although I am not officially listed as next of kin of a prisoner of war. I have moved from.....
to.....
and wish the BULLETIN sent to me there."

U. S. PRISONERS IN BULGARIA

Representatives of the Swiss government and the International Committee of the Red Cross on February 15-17 last visited the Bulgarian camp for American prisoners of war situated in the mountains about five miles from Choumen. These representatives, who were accompanied by Bulgarian officials, were permitted to talk freely with the prisoners individually and with their senior officer, First Lieutenant Darlington.

There were about 50 prisoners, all airmen. The camp near Choumen was formerly a convalescent home for Bulgarian soldiers. Only one sleeping room at the time of the visit was available for the prisoners, but a second one, to be used by officers, was promised. Various suggestions for the improvement of living conditions at the camp were made to the Bulgarian authorities, whose attention was particularly called to the obligations of the Bulgarian government as a signatory of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention. Delegates felt that ignorance of the provisions of the Convention, rather than a disposition to treat the prisoners harshly, was responsible for most of the complaints.

Two wounded prisoners in the clinic at Choumen stated that they were being given good care, and the Delegates reported that the health of the other prisoners was good.

One immediate outcome of the visit was a promise by the camp commander that men would be permitted to write two letters a month.

A follow-up visit was arranged for, and presumably has since been made to see that improvements promised had been put into effect.

PACKAGING CENTERS

Regardless of heat and humidity, Red Cross volunteers in the Philadelphia, New York, and St. Louis centers have maintained an aggregate output throughout the summer of over 1,000,000 standard food packages a month. By the end of July the total output had almost reached the 15,000,000 mark.

The assembly line at the New York plant is now manned on Saturday afternoons chiefly by business girls who have joined the ranks of those who give up precious time to help American and Allied prisoners of war. Also at work in the New York plant is a group of Jersey City school teachers who have volunteered for the summer.

The special Christmas package for American prisoners of war and civilian internees in Europe is being made up in Packaging Center No. 1 at Philadelphia—not at New York, as was stated in the July BULLETIN.

COOKING GUIDE

A cook book, *The Prisoner of War Cooking Guide*, has been released by the Red Cross Nutrition Service for use in prisoner of war camps. The recipes were prepared on the basis of the contents of the standard food package and the vegetables which can be grown from the Red Cross garden packages sent to all camps in Germany containing American prisoners. The Cooking Guide is being sent through the International Red Cross directly to the camps, for distribution in sufficient number so that one guide can be supplied to each group of 25 men.

PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

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Reports from Camps in Germany

It has been reported that American prisoners of war captured in Germany were being assigned to Stalag XII A, at Limburg, "located a little north of a line between Cologne and Frankfurt/Main," and that several thousand men had already arrived there.

American prisoners have also been assigned recently to the new Stalag XII B at Teschen, on the former Polish-Czechoslovak frontier, and to Stalag Luft IV, which is in Pomerania near the Polish-German frontier. The designation of the old Stalag VIII B at Lamsdorf was changed to Stalag 344.

About 1,500 American noncommissioned airmen were reported in Stalag Luft IV at the end of June, the camp then being only in process of construction. Other new camps for Americans are given elsewhere in this issue under the heading "Map Changes."

Stalag II B

Recent information on conditions in the base camp, as well as among the work detachments outside, indicates a state of affairs at Stalag II B which is far from satisfactory. Action has been taken by the State Department on reported mistreatment of American prisoners. There are about 150 American work detachments (almost all agricultural) scattered throughout the large area covered by this Stalag, and the conditions under which some of these detachments live are very primitive. The men are also so widely scattered, with detachments varying in strength from a few prisoners to 60 or more, that it is impossible for representatives of the Protecting Power and the International Committee of the Red Cross to investigate fully all the complaints made by the men.

Much of the friction between American prisoners and their guards, as well as between the men and some of the individual Germans for whom they work, appears to have developed out of attempts to escape. A few prisoners at II B were shot while attempting to escape about a year ago. Next of kin were notified of these deaths.

Chronic overcrowding at the base camp, which contains French, Belgian, Italian, and Yugoslav as well as American prisoners of war; poor hospital facilities for the relatively high percentage of men at this camp needing proper medical care; and lack of adequate facilities for cooking, washing, and recreation — all

contribute to making conditions at II B a matter for much concern.

Stalag Luft III

A cable received in New York by War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA on July 7 quoted the following message sent to Geneva by Colonel Spivey, senior American officer at Stalag Luft III:

A new 2,000-man compound has recently been opened and is rapidly being filled with Americans. It is known as the West Compound, and Colonel Darr H. Alkire is senior officer.

Our athletic program (at Center Compound) is now going full blast. Softball is by far the most popular



A group of American officers at Oflag 64, early in February. Top row left to right: Lt. William Guest, Capt. Stephen Kane, Lt. Robert Aschim, Lt. Anthony Cipriani, Lt. Frank Aten. Bottom row: Lt. Harold Tallman, Lt. Burrows, Lt. Henry Perry, Lt. Sid Waldman.

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